PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice released by the Centre for the 'Food for Work Programme' in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the State Government has sought more rice from the Centre; and

(c) if so, by when the additional quota would be released?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) 16.50 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated, free of cost, to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Food for Work Programme during the year 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) A proposal for further allocation of 5.00 lakh tonnes of rice under the Food for Work Programme has received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The proposal is under consideration.

Filling up of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs

*180. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs remain unfilled in various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Some vacancies including vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain unfilled in various Ministries/Departments at any point of time.

(b) Information is not maintained centrally.

(c) In order to fill up vacancies reserved for SCs and STs, various relaxations and concessions are given. In case of direct recruitment,

SCs/STs get concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by five years, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, relaxation in qualification regarding experience at the discretion of UPSC/Competent authority, relaxation is standards of suitability, etc. In case of promotion they get concessions like extension of zone of consideration to five times the number of vacancies in case suitable SC/ST candidates are not available within the normal zone of consideration, relaxation in marks/standards of evaluation, relaxation in upper age limit by five years where upper age limit for promotion is prescribed not exceeding 50 years etc. Backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs/STs are treated as a separate and distinct group and are not subject to the ceiling of 50 per cent on filling up of reserved vacancies. All the Ministries/Departments have been requested to carry out a review for early assessment of backlog vacancies in respect of SCs and STs and make concerted efforts to fill them up.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Misuse of KVIC's guest house in Delhi

1164. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has hired a house in Neeti Bagh, New Delhi for being used as a guest house at a very high rental price, but in fact, it is being used as a residence by its Chairman;

(b) if not, the number and names of officials of KVIC who stayed in the said guest house from the date, the said house was taken on lease; and

(c) the amount paid by KVIC towards monthly rent of the said house?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House later.